



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

2008 JAN -7 A 9:17

NOV 12 2008

The Honorable Ken Salazar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

Thank you for your letter of October 31, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

KEN SALAZAR
COLORADO

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October 31, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Attn: Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Secretary Peters,

I write in support of American Airlines' application for antitrust immunity for its One World International aviation alliance with partners British Airways, Finnair, Iberia and Royal Jordanian Airlines.

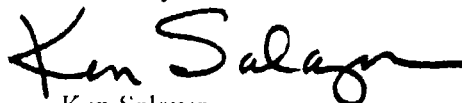
Immunity would mean the five One World airlines will continue to operate as separate legal entities—with their own fleets, employees and brands— but would be able cooperate more closely in the aviation market place, providing travelers with more domestic choices and better international connections, enhanced frequent flyer programs, and most importantly, more competitive prices.

In today's global economy, the long-term success of an air carrier is at least partially dependent upon strong relationships, a global reach, and the ability to seamlessly coordinate, schedule and market in a global network – all which are attainable when airlines in an alliance are able to cooperate more closely.

Airports in my own state—including Denver International Airport and the Colorado Springs Airport—support this application, citing the potential benefits that consumers could reap should this alliance receive antitrust immunity.

With those benefits in mind, I urge you to promptly review and approve American Airlines' application for antitrust immunity to bring more competition to the aviation market place.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
U.S. Senator